

# COMING TOGETHER FOR PRAIRIE ROSE LAKE

HELP IMPROVE AND PROTECT OUR LAKE BY WORKING WITH THE PRAIRIE ROSE LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT.

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Prairie Rose Lake, the lake we use for swimming, fishing and boating, needs our help. Working together, we can help improve and protect the centerpiece of Prairie Rose State Park. By making changes on the land, we can create a better place for Shelby County residents, present and future, to enjoy.

## TAKING A WATERSHED APPROACH

The Prairie Rose Lake Watershed Project works together with local landowners and residents to make changes on the land that drains into Prairie Rose Lake (the watershed). Those changes slow erosion and filter water to prevent pollutants from washing into our water.

## KNOWING THE PROBLEMS

Prairie Rose Lake's problems come from algae blooms affecting recreation. Excess sediment (soil) and nutrients, like phosphorus, that wash in from the watershed lead to problem algae growth.

## SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER LAKE

Cleaner water in Prairie Rose Lake starts by keeping excess soil, nutrients and bacteria from reaching the lake in the first place. The Prairie Rose Lake Watershed Project aims to reduce sediment and phosphorous reaching the lake by 60 percent.

To meet this goal, David Brand, project coordinator, will work with landowners to find what conservation practices will work best for their land and the lake.

Conservation practices, which are ways to manage the land for better water quality, can be structures, like ponds and wetlands, or fences that keep livestock from eroding stream banks. They can be plantings, like buffers and grassed waterways, that help slow water and prevent erosion. Conservation practices can also be ways of improved land management, such as using conservation tillage, which disturbs the soil less and leaves residue on the surface.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways, large and small, that you can help

your lake. You can volunteer with the project or add new conservation practices to your property. For those looking to begin using new conservation practices on their land, financial assistance may be available from the watershed project. Just ask the project coordinator, David Brand, what you can do to help. The project would like to work with landowners to install:

- Structures, like ponds, to control runoff
- Apply nutrient management practices on 1,600 acres
- Use no-till practices on 1,600 acres
- Install 40,000 feet of new terraces
- Plant three acres of grassed waterways and 10 acres of contour buffer strips
- Create two wetlands

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Get involved by stopping by the Harlan Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office, 2519 Southwest Ave., to visit with Project Coordinator David Brand. You can also call (712) 755-5116 or e-mail [David.Brand@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:David.Brand@ia.nacdnet.net).

The Prairie Rose Lake Watershed Project is a partnership between the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District, local landowners and residents, Shelby County Pheasants Forever, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation, and USDA NRCS.

